

the Optimist Club, Character Counts! Coalition, St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Heritage Fellowship Church, the Medical Care for Children Partnership, and Reston Community Coalition, a community/school partnership promoting drug and alcohol use prevention. During January 1999, LeCesne chaired Reston's Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee for the celebration of Dr. King's birthday.

Patricia Macintyre for her steadfast efforts as a community volunteer. A renowned artist, she has spent more than 30 years volunteering her talent and love of art in many forums and spaces, including art galleries, government buildings, schools, preschools, festivals and celebrations. She spent 17 years as host of "You've Gotta Have Art," a weekly children's television program directed toward teaching Reston youth to appreciate art. Macintyre has spent her life working to preserve and promote the arts in Reston. Every Saturday morning she leads free family workshops in art and culture at the Reston Historic Trust Museum.

USAA for its commitment to a strong work ethic, customer service, and the value of its employees' personal, professional, and family needs. USAA supports efforts to improve the quality of life in its employees' communities, affording them many volunteer opportunities. Through USAA's involvement in the community, research funds have been raised to benefit the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Arthritis Foundation, and others. USAA helps meet the material needs of our community through ongoing collection of food, clothing, books, and school supplies. USAA volunteers support education by giving their time as tutors, mentors, and speakers. A commitment to community involvement is so basic to USAA's corporate culture, that "Public Outreach" is a corporate "Key Result Area."

Jane Gilmer Wilhelm's mission in Reston and her entire career has been to be a vital, clear, caring resource for all people. She has given innumerable gifts of time and passionate presence to all our community's members from her early years in Reston as Director of Community Relations to the speeches she makes to this day, to save buses, libraries, and funding for the neediest. From infants to the elderly, from the homeless and needy, from young students to senior citizens in learning, from our various community organizations, to nature areas preserved by our founders, her caring has permeated her days. Not to mention her frequent visits with many on Lake Anne benches and her tireless volunteer work for our citizens' many concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring the "Best of Reston" Award winners for their dedicated commitment to making Reston, Virginia an exceptional place to live and work. This year's award recipients deserve recognition and gratitude from a very grateful community.

#### EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

### HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the twenty-ninth an-

nual Earth Day. This spring observation provides the people of our nation and across the globe the opportunity to renew our dedication to environmental protection. We as a nation have a shared responsibility to preserve our vast and diverse natural resources. I have a longstanding commitment to conservation and environmental protection, and I am pleased to join in today's celebration.

While we have made significant progress since the first Earth Day celebration in 1970, we must continue our efforts to improve environmental quality. It is my belief that Earth Day activities heighten awareness about actions that we can take to improve our environment, both locally and globally. Today's observation offers us the opportunity to acclaim our progress, but more importantly, it allows us to renew our commitment to the challenges facing our planet.

Earth Day festivities take place all across the country. I would like to pay special tribute to my constituents in Montgomery County, Maryland who are so active in their support of environmental causes. This is especially true during this month, with activities and programs like the Earth Day Fair in Bethesda, the various stream cleanups across the county, and the Arbor Day celebration in Derwood.

I consider environmental protection to be national priority. I pledge to work with my colleagues to ensure the preservation of our natural resources and the protection of the public's health. And this Earth Week, as we also celebrate the 435th birthday of William Shakespeare, we remember his words, "to nature none more bound." Today, as we observe Earth Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to a cleaner world.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HENRY ATKINSON

### HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to everyone whose life was touched by Mr. Henry Atkinson, who passed away earlier this week.

Henry Atkinson was one of the most dedicated men I've ever had the pleasure of knowing—dedicated to his friends, dedicated to his community, and dedicated to the students and schools he spent his career serving.

Among Henry's many achievements in 20 years on the Green Bay School Board were his oversight of the transition of junior high schools into middle schools and his work to create a drug and alcohol abuse program for the Green Bay Schools.

Henry was a small businessman who also served on the Green Bay Water Commission, the Brown County Bicentennial Committee and the Northeast Wisconsin Vocational, Technical and Adult Education District Board.

But he is most remembered by the generations of students and educators who witnessed his day-to-day efforts to make Green Bay education a rewarding and memorable experience.

Green Bay lost one of its finest community leaders this week, but he will surely live on in the memories of those who gained so much from knowing him.

#### THE RICKY RAY RELIEF ACT

### HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support of funding for the Ricky Ray Relief Act. The time has come for the federal government to accept its share of the responsibility for failing to protect the nation's blood supply and failing to properly regulate the sale of blood-clotting products used by sufferers of hemophilia. As a result of the government's failure more than 8,000 people with hemophilia have been devastated by HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, the financial burden of hemophilia and HIV is overwhelming. The average cost of hemophilia therapy is nearly \$100,000 per year. If a person has an inhibitor, a condition that requires extensive treatment, therapy can exceed \$1,000,000 in a year. These costs are further compounded by the costs of HIV/AIDS care which was estimated to be \$10,000–\$50,000 annually in 1995. These staggering cost are far beyond the financial capacities of most hard working American families.

The Ricky Ray Relief Act was named for a young Florida boy who came to symbolize the tragedy that is hemophilia-associated AIDS. This legislation establishes a \$750 million trust fund from which victims of this tragedy can claim \$100,000 each as partial compensation for their physical, emotional, and financial suffering. This legislation is not about charity, but about acknowledging the government's responsibility for this tragedy.

It has taken almost 5 years for members of the hemophilia community who are living with HIV/AIDS to reach this point. The Ricky Ray Relief Act was first introduced in 1995 and was reintroduced in 1997. When it passed both the House and the Senate by unanimous consent, this bill had the support of 270 bipartisan cosponsors in the House and 61 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate. On November 12, 1998, the President signed the Ricky Ray Relief Act into law.

I was proud to be both a cosponsor and advocate of this legislature. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for the government to admit responsibility for failure to protect our nation's blood supply. We must fund the Ricky Ray Relief Act. The funding of this legislation will make a tremendous difference in the lives of many members of the hemophilia community who have faced and continue to face living with hemophilia and HIV/AIDS.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 92: To Authorize the President to Award a Gold Medal on Behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks; rollcall 93: Condemning the Murder of Human Rights Lawyer Rosemary Nelson; rollcall 94: Education Flexibility Partnership Act Conference Report; and rollcall 95: Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act; I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast